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(54) Centralized certificate management system for two-way interactive communication devices in data networks

(57) The present invention discloses a method for managing centralized certificates in a proxy server device (114) for a plurality of thin client devices (302, 304, 306) coupled thereto through a data network (102). A user account database, accessible by the proxy server, comprises a plurality of user accounts with each of the thin client devices being associated with one or more of the user accounts. Each of the user accounts comprises a device ID (316), a list of public and private keys (326) assigned to the user account, and a list of certificates (320) assigned to the user account. A certificate man-

agement module reserves a fixed number of free certificates signed by a Certificate Authority and their respective private keys in a certificate database (328) and frequently updates the free certificate according to a certificate updating message. Whenever a user account is created for a thin client device, the certificate management module fetches one or more free certificates from the certificate database and associates the fetched certificate(s) to the created account and at the same time creates new free certificates with the Certificate Authority to fill in the certificate database.

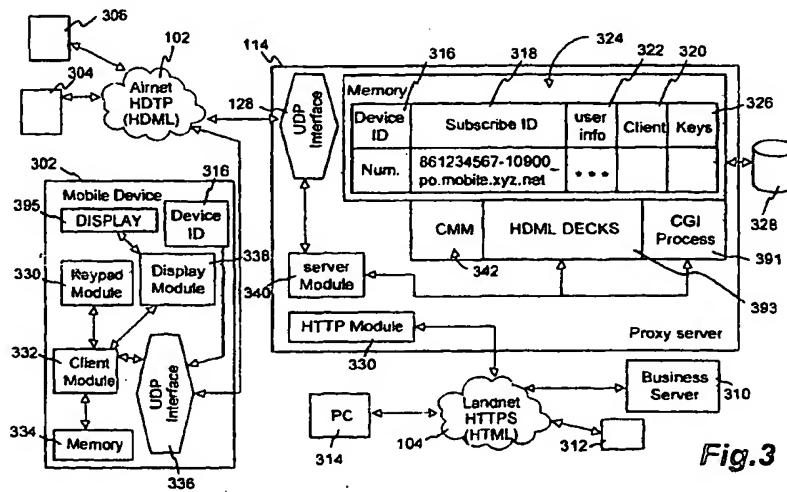


Fig.3



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT									
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)						
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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)									
H04L									
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BERLIN</td> <td>14 February 2000</td> <td>Carnerero Álvaro, F</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	BERLIN	14 February 2000	Carnerero Álvaro, F
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BERLIN	14 February 2000	Carnerero Álvaro, F							
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 99 30 1079

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

